



A33888 PCT/USA (071838.0127)
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

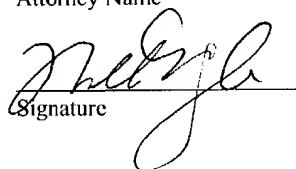
Patent No. : 6,733,855 B1 Serial No. : 09/720,691
Inventor(s) : Scott Filed : Aug. 24, 1999
Issue Date : May 11, 2004 Examiner : Zirker, Daniel
Group Art Unit: 1771
Title : LABEL

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Certificate of Corrections Branch, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 29, 2004
Date of Deposit

Walter M. Egbert, III
Attorney Name


Signature

37,317
PTO Registration No.

September 29, 2004
Date of Signature

Certificate
OCT 06 2004
of Correction

Commissioner for Patents
Attn: Certificate of Corrections Branch
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is:

☒ Request for Certificate of Correction (in duplicate)

☒ 2 copies of Certificate of Correction PTO/SB/44

OCT 08 2004

- [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees that are required in connection with the submission of this communication and to credit any overpayment that may have been made to Deposit Account No. 02-4337. Duplicate copies of this sheet are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Dated: September 29, 2004

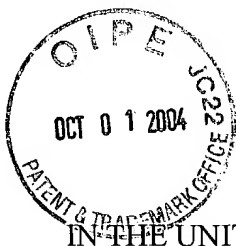
By: 

Walter M. Egbert, III
Patent Reg. No. 37,317

30 Rockefeller Plaza
44th Floor
New York, New York 10112-4498

Attorney for Applicants
212-408-2502

Enclosure



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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No. : 6,733,855 Serial No. : 09/720,691
Inventor(s) : Scott, Leonard James Filed : Aug. 24, 1999
Issue Date : May 11, 2004 Examiner : Zirker, Daniel
Group Art Unit: 1771
Title : LABEL

REQUEST FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.322

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Certificate of Corrections Branch, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 29, 2004
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Attorney Name

37,317
PTO Registration No.


Signature

September 29, 2004
Date of Signature

Commissioner for Patents
ATTN: Certificate of Corrections Branch
PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA
22313-1450

Sir:

Upon comparison of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,851, granted January 13, 2004, to Masson, et al., for LABEL, with our file of the application therefor, the following errors were found:



A33888 PCT USA (071838.0127)
PATENT

PATENT

Column 6,

line 60 (claim 12), "claimed in claim, 10,"

should read

--claimed in claim 10,--

APPLICATION

per Amendment 10/10/2003,
claim 18

REMARKS

A proposed Certificate of Correction is enclosed in duplicate. The mistakes in the appended form occurred through the fault of the Office as clearly disclosed by the records of the application which matured into this patent. A copy of the Amendment mailed October 10, 2003 is appended hereto as Exhibit A. Claim 18, which issued as claim 10, appears on page 4 of the Amendment. It is respectfully requested that the Certificate of Correction be issued for attachment to the original patent under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.322.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 254, Applicant believes that no additional fee is required in connection with the submission of this document. However, should any fee be required, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or

credit any overpayments made, to Deposit Account No. 02-4377. Duplicate copies of this sheet are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

By:



Walter M. Egbert, III
Patent Reg. No. 37,317

30 Rockefeller Plaza
44th Floor
New York, New York
10112-4498

Attorney for Applicant
212-408-2500

Enclosures

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,733,855 B1

Page 1 of 1

DATED : May 11, 2004

INVENTOR(S) : Scott

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 6,

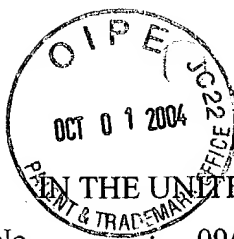
line 60 (claim 12), "claimed in claim, 10,"

should read --claimed in claim 10,--

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:
Baker Botts L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112

PATENT NO. 6,733,855 B1

OCT 08 2004



A33()-PCT-USA 071838.0127

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

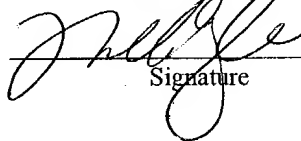
Appl. No. : 09/720,691
Applicant : Leonard James Scott
For : A LABEL
Filed : December 28, 2000
TC/A.U. : 1771
Examiner : Zirker, Daniel R.
Docket No. : A33888-PCT-USA 071838.0127
Customer No. : 21003

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

October 10, 2003
Date of Deposit

Walter M. Egbert
Attorney Name


Signature

37,317
PTO Reg. No.

October 10, 2003
Date of Signature

Mailstop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated April 10, 2003, please amend the
above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2
of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 (currently amended) A composite label including a first layer of printed polyester for displaying information at a first major surface of the label and a second layer ~~including material having a density less than the polyester~~ for presenting information at a second major surface of the label, the second layer including a removable portion arranged to be separated from the label and secured to another object, and wherein the second layer is formed of a material having a density and softness less than the polyester, to allow the second layer to be cut or scored so as to define the removable portion, without compromising the integrity of the first layer.

Claim 2 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 1, wherein the material of the second layer comprises polypropylene.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended) A composite label including a first layer for displaying information at a first major surface of the label, and a second layer including a removable portion arranged so as to be separated from the label and secured to another object, wherein the second layer includes an adhesive on one side thereof for securing the removable portion to the first later and the first layer includes a release coating to facilitate removal of the portion therefrom, the adhesive and release coating providing a

release strength factor of between 17 grams force / 50 mm and 30 grams force / 50 mm, and wherein the first layer is formed of polyester and the second layer includes material having a density softness less than the polyester, to allow the second layer to be cut or scored so as to define the removable portion, without compromising the integrity of the first layer.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second layer is printed with information for display to both sides thereof.

Claim 7 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first layer is transparent such that the information printed on the second layer is viewable from the first major surface of the label.

Claim 8 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 6, wherein the second layer includes a transparent material with a plurality of overlaid print layers applied thereto comprising a first image printed on the transparent material, for display toward the first major surface, a masking layer and a second image facing outwardly of the second major surface.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 8, wherein the transparent material of the second layer is clear polypropylene.

Claim 10 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein a clear polypropylene laminate is applied on the first major surface.

Claim 11 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein a varnish is applied to the second major surface to provide the second major surface with a coefficient of friction in the range of about 0.25 to 0.40.

Claim 12 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein the polyester is white.

Claim 13 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein the polyester is metallized.

Claim 14 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein a depth dimension of the first layer is in the range of about 12 micron to 30 micron.

Claim 15 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 14, wherein the second layer has a depth dimension in the range of about 23 micron to 40 micron.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein the second layer includes a mark for detection by an electronic eye to facilitate actuation of a cutting device, for scoring the second layer so as to define the removable portion.

Claim 17 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 16, wherein the portion is in the form of a sticker.

Claim 18 (previously presented) A composite label as claimed in claim 16, for use with a bottle, the label including an aggressive adhesive applied to the second major surface in a region adjacent the removable portion, to facilitate secure attachment of the label to the bottle.

Claims 19-20 (canceled).

Remarks / Arguments

In response to the Office Action mailed April 10, 2003, Applicant submits this Amendment concurrently with a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time.

Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-20 were pending in this application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-20. By this Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 19, and claim 4 has been amended to include the features of Claim 20. Claims 19-20 have been canceled. The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and are believed to place the above-identified application in condition for formal allowance.

Further examination and reconsideration of the rejection are hereby requested.

The rejection under 35 USC §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 20 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Canadian Patent Application 2,172,237 (the "Canadian Patent Application"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites a composite label including a first layer of printed polyester for displaying information at a first major surface of the label and a second layer for presenting information at a second major surface of the label, the second layer including a removable portion arranged to be separated from the label and secured to another object, and wherein the second layer is formed of a material having a density and softness less than the polyester, to allow the second layer to be cut or scored so as to define the removable portion, without compromising the integrity of the first layer. Accordingly, the composite label of this claim is defined as including a first and second layer having a particular configuration. In particular, the relative material properties of

the first and second layers have been defined insofar as the first layer is polyester and the second layer is formed of a material having a density and softness less than the polyester.

The Examiner has cited the following references or statements to argue that Claim 1 is obvious: (1) the Canadian Patent Application, (2) Applicant's statement of page 1, lines 10-17 of the specification, and (3) the Examiner's statement about the level of skill in the art.

First, the Canadian Patent Application discloses an assembly which comprises a carrier web (11) upon which is mounted a polyester label (20). An adhesive coating (21) is provided on an underside of the label and that is, in turn, removably attached to a varnish coating (18) of the web. The web is not a component of the label, and essentially acts as a carrier for the label. The label and adhesive layer is in fact referred to as a sub-assembly "S" that is individually applied to the web.

Second, the statement of page 1, lines 10-17 of the specification states, in part, that "[t]he broad concept of providing labels with removable stickers is well known Such a label is, however, known to be formed of a simple double layer construction of conventional laminated paper or polypropylene material," i.e., two layers of the same type of material, e.g., polypropylene. The Examiner states that "with respect to newly presented claims 19 and 20, applicants appear to admit that polypropylene would read on this particular newly claimed property" (paragraph 8, page 3 of the April 10 Office Action). Applicant has made no such admission. Whereas Applicant states in the specification that "polypropylene material" may be used in a label, applicant does not admit that the prior art of record discloses or suggests the *juxtaposition* of a polyester layer and a layer having a density and softness less than polyester.

Third, the Examiner's statement about the level of skill in the art is that "to select a material having a density less than polyester such as polypropylene and related films is not hindsight but well within the ordinary skill of the art."

It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of the Canadian Patent Application in view of the applicant's statements and the examiner's observation. In order to establish a case of *prima facie* obviousness, the prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Moreover, the teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art, *not applicant's disclosure*. (Emphasis added.)¹ In this case, the proposed combination does not teach or suggest all of the claimed features.

A feature of Applicant's invention as claimed in Claim 1 is the arrangement of a label having two layers, i.e., a layer of polyester positioned adjacent a layer having a density or softness less than the polyester. The juxtaposition of these two layers allows the second, softer layer to be cut or scored, while leaving the first, polyester layer intact. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Examiner's proposed combination. The Examiner has not cited any teaching or suggestion that the relative positioning of two layers in a composite label which allow one to be cut without compromising the integrity of the other is a desirable property in the manufacture of labels, *without relying on Applicant's disclosure*.

The proposed combination of references provides no such teaching. The Canadian Patent Application discusses the possible use of different materials and in fact describes an arrangement with a polyester web. The applicant's statement in the specification refers to a double layer of polypropylene labels. However, there is no suggestion whatsoever of combining two layers in the manner defined, in order to produce the *composite label* of this invention, and to realize the substantial benefit of being able to cut one layer while leaving the other layer intact. The defined construction of Claim 1 allows for the production of a dual purpose label, which is suitable as both a conventional label and a promotional and marketing tool by having a removable portion on a reverse side of the label. It is submitted the concept itself of applying such a label to

¹ *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

a bottle is unique and that the concept and label construction are intrinsically related in this instance.

Moreover, the suggestion that the invention of claim 1 would be obvious in light of the combination including the Canadian Patent Application, which merely discloses adhesive labels attached to an underlying web, is not supported by a proper rationale. The Canadian Patent Application is directed to a *single layer label* and a polyester *webbing*, and not to a double layer label. The Examiner has provided no suggestion or rationale that the polyester webbing can serve as a layer of the label. Accordingly, Claim 1, and claim 2 which depends from claim 1, are believed nonobvious and allowable over the proposed combination of references.

Claim 4 is believed allowable at least for the reasons discussed hereinabove. Claim 4 also recites a release strength factor of between 17 grams force / 50 mm and 30 grams force / 50 mm. The physical properties which allows the label to be used in conventional bottling equipment have been arrived at as a result of a substantial amount of research, and does not constitute an "obvious optimization." For example, considerable efforts have been expended to achieve a label with appropriate layer thicknesses, in the order of 10's of microns and to achieve appropriate strengths with material of that thickness represents a significant advance in its own right. The Canadian Patent Application, however, simply describes an adhesive label mounted on a web, where the thickness of the label itself is described as being in the order of about 0.5 to about 4.0 mils. That clearly indicates the label would not be suitable for the same application as the present label. Accordingly, it is submitted the label construction of the invention, particularly with the material properties such as the defined thickness, represents a nonobvious improvement over the cited prior art. Claim 4, and claims 6-18, which depend from claim 4, are believed nonobvious over the proposed combination of references, and thus allowable.

Claim 18 is believed allowable, at least for all the reasons discussed above regarding Claims 1 and 4. In addition, claim 18 recites that the composite label is for use

with a bottle, with the label includes an aggressive adhesive applied to the second major surface in a region adjacent the removable portion, to facilitate secure attachment of the label to the bottle. The Canadian Patent Application, in combination with the additional references, neither discloses nor suggests such use of an aggressive adhesive. In fact, as discussed above, the Canadian Patent Application specifically describes that the webbing is stacked or rolled for shipping (page 3, lines 19-23). The use of an adhesive on the webbing would allow the webbing to stick together, thereby preventing the webbing from being useable after stacking or rolling. Such proposed modification of the reference would render the reference inoperable for its intended purpose. Accordingly, claim 18 is believed nonobvious and allowable over the cited combination of references.

Claims 19-20 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby obviating the rejection with respect thereto. As stated above, the features recited in canceled claims 19-20 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 4.

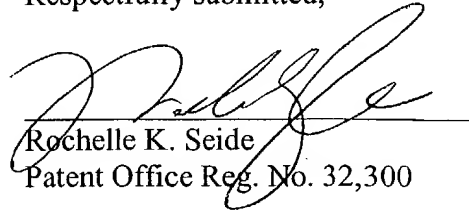
It is requested that the rejection of claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 20 under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1-2, 4 and 6-18 are believed allowable, and this application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Prompt and favorable allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 10, 2003


Rochelle K. Seide
Patent Office Reg. No. 32,300

Walter M. Egbert, III
Patent Office Reg. No. 37,317

Attorneys for Applicants

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-4498
(212) 408-2500